

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

CHAIRMAN JOHN LEWIS

John Robert Lewis is the only head of a civil rights organization elected by civil rights activists.

Lewis is 24 years old. He was born in Troy, Alabama. His mother is a laundress, and his father is a farmer and school bus driver.

He attended the public schools of Troy and Pike County, and was graduated from the American Baptist Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee with an A.B. degree in religion in 1961. He has done further study toward an A.B. degree in philosophy at Fisk University.

Lewis has been arrested 32 times. He was an organizer of the Nashville Student Movement and an original Freedom Rider. He was instrumental in continuing the rides after other civil rights groups withdrew their support contending the rides were "too dangerous." He suffered a beating from a mob when his bus arrived at Montgomery, Alabama on Mother's Day, 1961.

Since assuming SNCC's chairmanship, Lewis has visited and participated in SNCC projects in Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia and Alabama.

He was a leader at the August 1963 March on Washington. His speech at that time kicked off SNCC's widespread use of the African slogan, "One Man - One Vote," which describes SNCC's Southwide program aimed at removing all barriers to the vote except age and residence.

Lewis is a board member of the Nashville Christian Leadership Conference, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

